

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 1245

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT DA VS

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON FALL OF
SOUTH VIETNAM

REF: COPENHAGEN 1185

SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN GAVE DANISH
RADIO A STATEMENT THIS MORNING, APRIL 30,
ON SOUTH VIETNAM IN WHICH HE
LAID RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE WAR ON THE SERIES OF
"ULTRA CONSERVATIVE" SAIGON GOVERNMENTS THAT HAD BEEN
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BLIND AND DEAF TO THE DEMANDS OF THE PEOPLE. THE US,

HE SAID, HAD TOTALLY MISJUDGED THE SITUATION AND ITS ROLE HAD BEEN PREMISED ON A "FALSE IDEOLOGICAL BASIS", MAKING ITS FOREIGN POLICY "FAR TOO NARROW AND CONSERVATIVE". JORGENSEN ADDED THAT DANISH RECOGNITION OF ANY GOVERNMENT IN SAIGON WOULD BE A FORMAL MATTER SINCE DENMARK RECOGNIZES THE COUNTRY RATHER THAN THE GOVERNMENT. SOURCES IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TOLD POLCOUNS THAT STATEMENT HAD NOT BEEN PREPARED IN ADVANCE AND THAT THEY HOPED THAT TV DEBATE THIS EVENING WOULD DISCLOSE JORGENSEN'S THOUGHTS MORE PRECISELY. END SUMMARY.

1. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION BY DANISH RADIO EARLY THIS MORNING, APRIL 30, PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN GAVE A "SPONTANEOUS" COMMENT REGARDING THE SURRENDER OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM. STATEMENT WAS BROADCAST ON EARLY MORNING NEWS AND EXCERPTS REPLAYED IN LATER NEWS-CASTS. EMBASSY WILL ATTEMPT OBTAIN TEXT OF FULL STATEMENT AND FORWARD IT BY CABLE.

2. THE FOLLOWING INFORMAL TRANSLATION HAS BEEN PIECED TOGETHER FROM SEVERAL BROADCAST VERSIONS AND REPRESENTS THE SUBSTANCE OF HIS COMMENTS: "IT IS A GOOD THING TO SEE THE END OF THE VIETNAM WAR AFTER 35 YEARS OF FIGHTING. I BELIEVE THAT AN UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER IS THE BEST THING. THE MAIN RESPONSIBILITY MUST BE PLACED ON THE SERIES OF ULTRA CONSERVATIVE SAIGON GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN BLIND AND DEAF TO THE DEMANDS OF THE PEOPLE. THE US TOTALLY MISJUDGED (THE SITUATION) AND ITS EFFORT WAS PREMISED UPON A FALSE IDEOLOGICAL BASIS, MAKING ITS POLICY FAR TOO NARROW AND CONSERVATIVE".

3. IN RESPONSE TO A FURTHER QUESTION REGARDING DANISH RECOGNITION OF THE NEW REGIME, JORGENSEN STATED THAT DENMARK IN PRINCIPLE RECOGNIZES A COUNTRY RATHER THAN A PARTICULAR GOVERNMENT. "IT APPEARS THAT THE PRG IS IN POWER. RECOGNITION WOULD THUS ONLY BE A FORMAL MATTER. THE GOVERNMENT HAS HAD CONTACT WITH THE LOCAL INFORMATION OFFICE OF THE PRG ALL THE TIME".

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4. A FONMIN SOURCE TOLD POLCOUNS THAT STATEMENT WAS A "SPONTANEOUS" ONE GIVEN DIRECTLY IN RESPONSE TO DANISH RADIO ENQUIRY. SOURCE STATE THAT HE HOPED TO HAVE A MORE REFLECTIVE STATEMENT ISSUED BY FONMIN ANDERSEN FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM HUNGARY APRIL 30.

5. DANISH RADIO HAS SUBSEQUENTLY BROADCAST COMMENTS FROM VARIOUS OTHER DANISH POLITICIANS REGARDING JORGENSEN

STATEMENT. MODERATE LIBERAL MP ARNE CHRISTIANSEN CHARACTERIZED THE PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS AS BEING "NOT WELL CONSIDERED," ADDING THAT JORGENSEN'S OVER-HASTY COMMENT WAS INCONSISTENT WITH POLICY LINE EXPRESSED BY FONMIN ANDERSEN IN FOLKETING SPEECH APRIL 24 (REFTEL).

6. PRIMIN'S FOREIGN POLICY ADVISOR HENNING GOTTLIEB CALLED POLCOUNS THIS AFTERNOON IN ATTEMPT TO SET RECORD STRAIGHT (READ REPAIR DAMAGE). HE EXPLAINED THAT WHAT JORGENSEN HAD BEEN TRYING TO EXPRESS WAS THAT THE USC'S BELIEF THAT ONE OF THE SUCCESSIVE SAIGON GOVERNMENTS MIGHT PROVE VIABLE AND TRULY ABLE TO REPRESENT POPULAR WILL HAD BEEN MISTAKEN. HE HOPED THAT JORGENSEN'S VIEWS WOULD BE MORE PRECISELY PRESENTED ON TELEVISION THIS EVENING WHEN HE AND FORMER PRIMIN HARTLING ARE SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS THE VIETNAM SITUATION.

7. COMMENT: IN HIS FIRST PERIOD AS PRIME MINSTER (1972-73), ANKER JORGENSEN REVEALED A PENCHANT FOR LOOSE COMMENTS ON FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS. THIS IS HIS FIRST SUCH SLIP IN HIS SECOND PERIOD OF OFFICE AND IT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE EXPLOITED TO FULLEST ADVANTAGE BY THE OPPOSTION PARTIES. STAHNKE

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